

The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A mobile device, comprising:

a mobile device housing having a top surface;

a touch screen for displaying information to the user of the mobile device and for receiving input commands from the user, wherein the touch screen is mounted in the top surface of the housing; and

a ~~detachable~~ protective cover comprising a protective surface and a positioning mechanism, wherein the protective cover is ~~detachably~~ mounted to the mobile device housing such that the positioning mechanism positions the protective surface between a first position in which the protective surface covers the touch screen in the top surface; a second position in which the protective surface can be used as a support mechanism for the mobile device; and a ~~second~~ third position in which the protective surface ~~does not cover the touch screen in the top surface~~ is in a stowed position adjacent to the bottom surface of the mobile device;

wherein at least a portion of the protective surface is transparent to enable viewing of information displayed on the touch screen while the protective cover is in the first position .

2. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the protective surface includes a plurality of apertures, and wherein a plurality of controls are displayed on the touch screen below the apertures.

3. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the positioning mechanism includes a pair of pins on the protective cover that mount to a pair of rails on the mobile device housing.
4. (Currently Amended) The mobile device of claim 3, wherein the pins rotate about the rails in order to position the protective surface between the first, second and third positions ~~position and the second position~~.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the mobile device is a cellular telephone, a two-way pager, or a personal digital assistant.
7. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, wherein the positioning mechanism comprises a hinge.
8. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 7, wherein the hinge includes two parts, a first part integral to the protective cover, and a second part integral to the mobile device housing.
9. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 1, further comprising a keyboard, wherein the protective cover extends over the keyboard when biased in the first position.

10. (Currently Amended) A mobile device, comprising:

a ~~mobile device~~ housing having a top surface and a bottom surface;

a touch surface for receiving input commands from a user of the mobile device, wherein the touch surface is mounted in the top surface of the housing; and

a ~~detachable~~ protective cover comprising a transparent protective surface and a positioning mechanism, wherein the protective cover is ~~detachably~~ mounted to the ~~mobile device~~ housing such that the positioning mechanism positions the transparent protective surface between a first position in which the protective surface covers the touch surface and a second position in which the protective surface is in a stowed position adjacent to the bottom surface of the mobile device, the positioning mechanism including a pair of pins configured on the protective cover that mount to and engage with a pair of rails integral to and extending substantially along the sides of the housing, wherein the pins rotate about the rails and slidably engage therewith in order to translate the protective cover between the first position and the second position ~~does not cover the touch surface~~;

wherein the protective cover includes a plurality of apertures for providing input commands to the touch surface while the protective cover is biased in the first position.

11. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 10, wherein the touch surface is a touch screen.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 10, wherein the touch surface is a touch keyboard.

14. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 10, wherein the touch surface comprises a touch control area and a display area, wherein the plurality of apertures are aligned in the protective cover above the touch control area when the protective cover is in the first position.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 11, wherein the touch surface is a touch screen, and wherein a plurality of controls are displayed on the touch screen below the plurality of apertures in the protective cover when the protective cover is in the first position.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 10, wherein the mobile device is a cellular telephone, a two-way pager, or a personal digital assistant.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 10, further comprising a keyboard, wherein the protective cover extends over the keyboard when biased in the first position.

25-31 (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 2, further comprising:

a plurality of detachable and interchangeable protective covers which may be detachably mounted to the mobile device, each of the detachable and interchangeable protective covers including a plurality of apertures; and

a plurality of cover models stored within the mobile device, each cover model corresponding to one of the plurality of detachable and interchangeable protective covers and describing the position of the apertures within the protective cover.

33. (Previously Presented) The mobile device of claim 10, further comprising:

a plurality of detachable and interchangeable protective covers which may be detachably mounted to the mobile device, each of the detachable and interchangeable protective covers including a plurality of apertures; and

a plurality of cover models stored within the mobile device, each cover model corresponding to one of the plurality of detachable and interchangeable protective covers and describing the position of the apertures within the protective cover.